

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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**TESTIMONY
OF
LINDA H. LAMONE
May 10, 2001**

The State Board of Elections is made up of five members who serve four-year terms and represent the two principal political parties in Maryland. The members are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate of Maryland. The Administrator of Elections is a public official appointed by the State Board. The State Board and the Administrator manage and supervise elections in the State and ensure compliance with the requirements of State and federal law by all persons involved in the election process. Under the Maryland Constitution, elections in Maryland are held every other year. There are 24 local election directors in Maryland.

Since 1997, the goal of the State Board and the Administrator has been to develop standardized practices and procedures for the conduct of elections in Maryland.

The follow standardized procedures that have been developed and implemented by the State Board since 1997:

- Absentee voting and registration procedures for nursing homes and assisted living centers
- Absentee voting and canvass procedures
- Absentee affirmation
- A single Statewide voter registration application
- Procedures for voter identification at the polls
- Procedures for voter identification challenges
- Election Judges Training and Procedure Manual for each voting system
- Security procedures for election results cartridges and materials
- Post-Election audit and verification procedures
- Recount procedures for each voting system used
- Guidelines and instructions for various petition efforts
- Prescribed forms manual
- Polling place accessibility survey
- Election day emergency procedures
- Pre-ballot printing review process
- Uniform NVRA list maintenance process
- Employees Manual

The following information technology improvements have been made since 1997:

- Comprehensive IT plan for the agency, including the IT services provided to the local boards
- Central database of all registered voters housed at the State Board (MARS)
- Implementation of Local Election Management (LEMS) voter registration system at the county level
- Electronic transfer of criminal convictions from the Judicial Information System office to MARS
- Electronic transfer of death notices from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to SBE
- Central duplicate voter registration identification in MARS
- Development of electronic transfer of information from the Motor Vehicle Administration to MARS
- Update and replacement of election management software (candidate and campaign account entry program, candidate and ballot preparation program, campaign account and campaign report program, elections results reporting, commissions of election preparation program, etc.)
- Development of an Electronic Filing and Campaign Finance Information System
- Integration of all databases
- Upgrade all computer hardware and software at the state and local level
- Year 2000 compliance issues addressed

In addition, a comprehensive web site has been developed to include:

- A searchable database of campaign finance information
- Electronic receipt and posting of election results
- Downloadable voter registration application
- Downloadable absentee ballot application
- Information on all aspects of elections in Maryland, including prior election results, candidate lists, voter turnout
- Cross platform and open standards file format
- Built in accessibility for the visually impaired users (audio browser friendly)
- Monthly voter registration activity reports
- Compliance with W3 standards

The following miscellaneous projects and other accomplishments have been made since 1997:

- Compliance audit of the 24 local election offices
- Monthly meetings with local election directors
- Informational Bulletins issued to the local election directors
- Ethics and standards of conduct for local board members and employees
- Summary of Maryland Public Ethics Law provided to local election boards and employees
- Regulations have been rewritten to comply with new Article 33 and to incorporate various standardized procedures (e.g., uniform NVRA list maintenance procedures)

- Copies of all State Board regulations are provided to local board members, election directors and local board counsel
- Voting System Procurement manual
- Minimum qualifications and position descriptions for all positions in the local board offices updated and standardized
- New salary plan for all positions in the local board offices
- Best practices from other jurisdictions reported to the local boards
- Liaison with local governments to facilitate the appropriation of the funds, facilities, equipment and personnel necessary for the operation of the local boards

The Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance provided the following to the local boards of elections:

- A new and improved election calendar specifying statutory deadlines and other election timeframes
- Revision of the Article 33 provisions relating to candidacy and campaign finance
- All candidate-related filing information, including certificates of candidacy, procedural instructions for receiving and processing candidate filings, and instructions for transmission of data to SBE
- A listing of all qualifications for filing for office
- Procedures for post-election certification of candidates
- All campaign committee-related information, including forms, summary guide to Maryland Candidacy and Campaign Finance Laws, standardized memos and notices, procedural instructions for receiving and processing campaign accounts
- Standardized forms for reporting campaign contributions and expenditures
- A reporting schedule
- Standardized pre-report notices
- Standardized affidavits
- Standardized late fee notices, bills and instructions
- Procedures and information on how to review campaign fund reports and determine whether deficiencies exist
- Training seminars for the employees of the local boards on all aspects of candidacy and campaign finance

Recent Developments:

Most recently, the Maryland General Assembly passed two pieces of legislation during its 2001 session. One item (Senate Bill 833 and House Bill 1457) authorizes the State Board of Elections to acquire a uniform statewide voting system for the polling places and for absentee voting. The other item (Senate Bill 740/House Bill 1458) authorizes the use of a provisional ballot and assists in the implementation of the policy of the State Board to develop statewide voter registration. Under this policy, once a citizen registers to vote in Maryland, the voter will not have to re-register if the voter moves from county to county.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

GOVERNOR GLENDENING NAMES LINDA LAMONE AS ADMINISTRATOR OF STATE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS

Will Fill the Vacancy Created By the Retirement of Gene Raynor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (June 30, 1997) -- In a clear demonstration of his commitment to improving Maryland's system of elections, Governor Parris N. Glendening today appointed Annapolis attorney Linda H. Lamone as the Administrator of the State Administrative Board of Election Laws (SABEL). She will replace Gene M. Raynor, who officially retires from that position today. The appointment of Ms. Lamone is effective July 1.

"I am committed to making Maryland's administration of elections a national model to be emulated by other states," Governor Glendening said. "During the past two-and-a-half years, we have initiated efforts to upgrade and enhance our election process. Today's appointment marks another milestone in that continuous improvement program.

"Linda Lamone has a superb background in law and government that makes her highly qualified to fill this critical position," he continued. "More importantly, during my conversations with her, I was impressed by Linda's vision and her dedication to making Maryland's election system the best in the nation. I know she will do an excellent job in the coming years."

Since November 1995, Ms. Lamone has served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Maryland Higher Education Commission, where she provided legal counsel to the Secretary of Higher Education and the Maryland Higher Education Commission. She also previously served as Counsel to SABEL between 1983 and 1987.

During a distinguished legal career that has spanned more than two decades, Ms. Lamone has engaged in both private practice and public service. She was a special counsel to then-Maryland Lieutenant Governor Melvin A. Steinberg from 1987 to 1989 and held a series of increasingly responsible positions with the Attorney General of Maryland, including service in the Office of Counsel to the General Assembly.

Ms. Lamone also is a member of the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland, where she served as secretary and vice chairman of the Inquiry Committee for the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

Governor Glendening's appointment of Ms. Lamone was praised today by a variety of respected professionals in the legal, judicial, and governmental fields:

- "I'm happy with the Governor's selection of Linda Lamone as SABEL Administrator because of her excellent background as an Assistant Attorney General, and as a dedicated and outstanding lawyer who understands the law," said State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein. "She has the ability to get things done and work with the people in local and State government. I am looking forward to working with her for the best interests of Maryland."
- "Linda is top-notch, and I don't think the Governor could have done any better," said the Honorable Robert Bell, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals. "She is intelligent, and she has a wealth

of experience and a real interest in that area. She will serve the people of the State of Maryland very well. I applaud the Governor for his appointment."

- "Linda worked for me for nine years in this office," said Robert A. Zarnoch, Chief Counsel to the General Assembly for the State Attorney General's Office. "She is highly respected by members of the General Assembly from both parties. She is a person of great integrity, and people generally like and respect her. She is an excellent choice."
- "Linda Lamone is a great person and she will do an excellent job," said Delegate Joan Cadden (D-Anne Arundel), chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus. "She is a very bright and creative person, and she has a reputation for handling her responsibilities in a thorough, professional way. Her legal background gives her an added advantage. I am very happy with the Governor's appointment."
- "Linda is a very good attorney, she is very capable and very bright," said State Senator F. Vernon Boozer (R-Baltimore County). "I am sure she will do a fine job as the new SABEL administrator."
- "Linda is an extremely dedicated person who has been committed to the legal profession and to the State of Maryland," said David Downs, chair of the Attorney Grievance Commission. "During her service with this Commission, she has been totally dedicated to the task and has always done much more than was asked of her. She will make an excellent administrator."

Ms. Lamone received her Bachelor's degree with high honors from the University of Maryland, College Park and her law degree with high honors (Order of the Coif) from the University of Maryland School of Law. She is currently a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association of Maryland, the Anne Arundel County Bar Association, and the Women's Law Center of Anne Arundel County.

Additionally, among her many civic activities, Ms. Lamone is president of the Board of Directors of the Ballet Theater of Annapolis. She also is a member of the Christ Child Society and the YWCA of Anne Arundel County and Annapolis.

"I am highly honored by this appointment and the Governor's confidence in my ability to help guide Maryland's electoral process into the 21st century," Ms. Lamone said. "I intend to adhere to the highest standards and to continue to insure the public's confidence in our election system."

Ms. Lamone is married to Rudolph P. Lamone, the former Dean of the College of Business and Management at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is currently a professor in the college and is Chair of the Board of Advisors of the Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship.

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